

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5420

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XI, IX

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA EVACUEES

REF: A) TEHRAN 9079; (B) NAIROBI 8045; (C) PORT LOUIS 716

1. LOCAL PRO-INDIAN DAILY THE NATION SEPTEMBER 15 CARRIED STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER'S PERMANENT SECRETARY BURRENCHOBAY MADE TO REUTERS HERE INTER ALIA AS FOLLOWS: THE ILOIS (EVACUEES) WERE NOT FORCED TO LEAVE DIEGO GARCIA BUT WERE INFORMED THAT THEY HAD TO RETURN TO MAURITIUS AFTER THE SALE OF THE ISLAND TO THE UK IN 1965. THE GOM DECIDED TO DISBURSE THE 650,000 POUNDS WHICH IT RECEIVED FROM UK AS COMPENSATION FOR MOVING IN PORT LOUIS FOR ILOIS. THE INSTRUCTION WAS DELAYED BY THE THRONE (OBVIOUSLY MEANING GERVAISE IN FEBRUARY THE YEAR, I.E., ABOUT THREE YEARS AFTER UK TURNED OVER THAT SUM TO GOM.) ABOUT THIRTY FAMILIES WISH TO RETURN TO THEIR NATIVE ISLAND. THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS IN MAURITIUS ARE BAD AND THEY RECEIVE ONLY SMALL ASSISTANCE ALLOTMENTS.

2. WE AGREE WITH EMBOFF TEHRAN COMMENTS REF A AND BELIEVE DEPARTMENT MAY FIND FOLLOWING PORT LOUIS REPORTS PERTINENT:

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A) PORT LOUIS A-246, DECEMBER 20, 1971, CONTAINED ANALYSIS OF

PROBLEM OF EVACUEES AND RECOMMENDED COURSES OF ACTION.

B) PORT LOUIS A-196, OCTOBER 31, 1972, DISCUSSED SOME RESETTLEMENT ISSUES IN MAURITIUS, THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE EVACUEES AND REPORTED A CHURCH WORLD SERVICE'S PROJECT AMONG THE ILOIS FOR PRACTICAL TRAINING IN RABBIT AND CHICKEN RAISING.

C) PORT LOUIS A-77, MAY 2, 1972 DISCUSSED GOM PLAN FOR REHABILITATION OF ILOIS.

D) PORT LOUIS A-22, JANUARY 10, 1972, AND A-40, FEBRUARY 21, 1973 REPORTED THE DISENCHANTMENT OF THE ILOIS WITH GOM RESETTLEMENT SCHEME AND UK EMPHASIS ON GOM RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESETTLEMENT.

3. WE ALSO SUGGEST DEPT. BEAR IN MIND JANUARY 21, 1972 LETTER FROM THEN AIR FORCE SECRETARY HIBBERT AND REPLY FROM THEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM AS WELL AS LEGAL ADVISOR'S DECEMBER 28, 1970 MEMO BEARING ON NATIVE RESIDENCE OF ILOIS IN CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO AND NOTE THAT "THE USG WILL, OF COURSE, BE CONSIDERED TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE UK BY THE INHABITANTS AND OTHER NATIONS IF SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT MADE."

4. WHEN PETITION WAS PRESENTED TO UK AND GOM LAST FALL BY ILOIS, I BRIEFLY INQUIRED OF PRIME MINISTER WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT THEIR CONDITIONS AND SITUATION HERE. HE BRUSHED OFF QUESTION WITH CASUAL REMARK THAT THEY SEEMED UNWILLING TO INTEGRATE THEMSELVES INTO LOCAL COMMUNITY AND REFUSED JOBS OFFERED TO THEM. NET IMPRESSION I RECEIVED WAS THAT PRIME MINISTER CONSIDERED ILOIS AS MINOR NUISANCE FOR WHICH HE HAD LITTLE SYMPATHY.
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